

A SERMON

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

ANCIENT AND HONORABLE ARTILLERY COMPANY

OF MASSACHUSETTS,

JUNE 4, 1694.

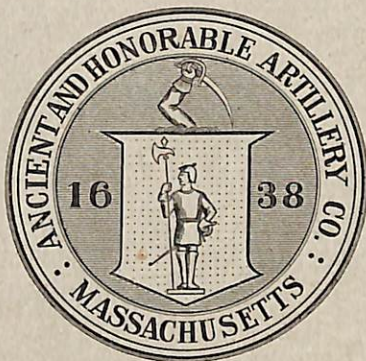
The Duty of the Christian Soldier to Stand in the Warfare
against his Spiritual Enemies.

BY

MOSES FISKE, A. M.,

PASTOR OF THE FIRST CHURCH, BRAINTREE, MASS.

TRANSCRIBED FROM THE ORIGINAL, IN POSSESSION OF THE MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL SOCIETY, BY WILLIAM BLAKE TRASK, AND NOW FOR
THE FIRST TIME PRINTED, BY VOTE OF THE COMPANY.



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LIBERTY has been taken by the copyist of writing out in full many of the words abridged in Mr. Fiske's manuscript, so that the sermon may be more easily and understandingly read, and also to correct, in some cases, the orthography, without changing the phraseology of the discourse.

SERMON.

EPH: 6. 14. Stand (therefore)

Fallen man, that hath lost his primitive Strength & standing in God's Love & favor, cast out of the earthly Paradise for his sinful Apostacy, being induced thereunto by the craft & Subtility of the old Serpent, which is called the Devil & Satan (gen: 3. beg. with Rev: 12. 9.) whereby he hath brought wrack (Eph: 2. 3.) & Ruine upon himself & his precious & immortal soul. The way to the tree of life being shutt against him, & secured by a strong & powerful Guard of Angels, cherubims & a flaming sword, to keep him from it, hath this for his doleful motto (Rev: 3. 17.), wretched & miserable & poor & blind & naked: And Now he is by nature, in of & for the Kingdom of darkeness & of the devil, he being a willing Captive, though miserable bond slave to Sin & Satan that grand enemy of the blessed God & of every thing that is truly good. Yet such was the infinite & unaccountable love of God to the perishing offspringe of the first Adam, as that he parted with his own, natural, only begotten Son, the brightness of his father's glory, & the express Image of his person, & Sent him down from Heaven when the fulness of time was come, to take upon him the Nature not of Angels but of Adam, & seed of Abraham. Such also was the most endearing love of Christ, as that he freely tooke upon him the forme of a Servant, being made like unto Sinful flesh, And gave himself A Ransome to redeeme & Save a lost Seed (having wone the field, in the battle which he fought, & obtained A full Conquest over all our enemies), even all those that hearken to his voice & come to him, & putt themselves under his care & conduct as their prophet priest & King, & of their onely mediator & alone Savior; who, as he doth invite & command all to whom the Gospel comes (being vested with all power & Authority as Lord of the world & heir of all things), to quitt the Standard of the Prince of darkness & come over & engage themselves on his side in a life war which must be maintayned with their spiritual enemies: So he doth expect the faithfulness & Allegiance in receiving and executing those

words of command, which he shall give them as their King & Captain general, who is ready to give them a most powerful conduct & lead them on, in their christian warfare, to a full & compleat victory & tryumph over them. The preaching of the Gospel being the great engine to beat down the walls & bulwerkes of the devils, &c. & to deliver poor captives out of the paws & Jawes of the devouring Lyon, That Abaddon. This Captain of their Salvation gives A commission unto those who he is pleased to improve in that worke, Amongst whom wee have that excellent Author & Penman of this Epistle (whose conversion & Commission was extraordinary), having obtained Successe in his ministeriall worke & warfare in the church militant, behaving himself as an acute Soldier & brave commander under Christ, And founded a famous church in Ephesus, whom he tooke his farewell of, leaving the care of that flocke of God to the elders & overseers, recommending them to God & to the word of his grace, which was able to build them up & to give them an Inheritance, amonge them that are Sanctified: who, being now a prisoner in Rome, writes this Epistle for their confirmation & establishment in the truth & grace of the Gospel: In the former part of which, in a line of Ascension, he Soars aloft into the great mysteries of faith. In the latter, he descends to Applications, contracting together those beams of light in a forceable & Cogent Exhortation, that hee might press and persuade them to walke worthy of their vocation, holding forth the grace of the Gospel in a shining conversation; in every Relation urging this in that of Husband & wife, parents and children, master and servants, of which, in the close of the foregoing chapter and beginning where of this.

And having thus fixed every one in their copy, placed and setting them to their particular work, he like a wise and careful Commander, that hath rallied his Army and put them in rank and file, makes a Speech in the Head of this Ephesian camp, with boasters, in a martial stile, as that which well suits with a christians calling, which is a continual warfare in this world. This, the better to prepare them for, and hearten them in the fight in which he gives them this great and general word of command, Stand. And if you may not beat, stand, as in the sense and meaning of it, we shall briefly consider it, with its reference to the preceding and subsequent Context: my text being full of eyes (of light, I mean), the light of Argument and direction, both in its front and rear,

Acts 19 and
20.

v. 32.

chap: 4. 1.

that he might bear up their fainting spirits and buoy up their sinking souls in so severe and long a fight. My text is introduced with a most encouraging exhortation, wherein he treats them as his fellow soldiers, finally, Brethren, Be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. And then proceeds to give them directions that they might behave themselves manfully in their management of the fight, so as to gain the field, and obtain in the end a full victory and conquest over their enemies.

The direction (annexed to the exhortation given) shows how they should buoy and bear up their fainting spirits on the Lord and the power of his might, viz: by arming of themselves with the divine panoply. Put on the whole Armor of God, which he strongly backs with a powerful Argument. That ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil; wherein he minds them of the deadly craft and cunning, and their extreme danger of being trepanned by him. And assures them of the day if they stand completely armed, opposing of themselves. And this he strengthens with a farther Argument or Reason, viz: that they must expect a close engagement with their enemy, and fight it out, hand to hand; for we wrestle, set forth both negatively and positively, or rather, comparatively, *q. d.* not so much with flesh and blood, *i. e.* the unregenerate part (that body of sin and death) within and wicked world without: both of which he himself had the experimental knowledge of, whence those words of complaint with respect unto the former, viz. of a law in his members, waging within him. And, as to the Latter, he informs not only his corinthian Soldiers that he had fought with Beasts at Ephesus, *i. e.* men of fierce and courageous spirits, but foretells their overseers and forewarns them of that storm that they might stand upon their watch and guard, that after his departure from them grievous wolves would enter in among them, not sparing the flock. But (or as) with principalities and powers &c. *i. e.* the main force and strongest enemies and most powerful Assailants, and Assaults, will be from those of the Invisible world, which will aid and animate both the others, viz. the flesh and the world. And from hence, having made such a discovery of their politick and potent enemies, he reassumes and reinferreth his direction (v. 11), wherefore, take to yourselves the whole Armor of God. This, by a double Argument, (1) that you may stand in the evil day, *i. e.* the day of Adversity, affliction and of death. (2) And having done all (*i. e.* fought it

v. 10.

direction
v. 11.

v. 12.

ro: 7. 23.

1 Cor. 15. 32.

Acts 20. 29.

v. 13.

out to the last breath,) may stand, or having prepared yourself for the battle you may be able to stand and abide the Shocke. And this brings me to my text, which contains and consists of a word of command which he gives them, (Stand), amplified by that illative particle own, therefore pointing to the Arguments and Armor in general opposed and directed to, Armor of God. In this and the following verses, he gives a particular description of themselves, piece by piece, which being put on together, would fit them for the fight, as the girdle or belt of truth, &c. And then winds up all with that prayer, having completely armed them for the fight, to ask the presence and Assistance of their Captain-general. And so adds that of prayer, as that which must Influence all the rest and enable to the use of them. Thus having taken a brief prospect of this Text as it stands in relation to the context, I proceed to the proof.

D. That those that would quit themselves well, as good Soldiers in the christian warfare, must Know and obey the directions and commands given them by Jesus Christ their Captain General, And Stand.

or 'Tis the duty and concernment of every Christian Soldier to Stand at the direction and command of Christ, his great Captain, Captain General.

or That the true followers of Christ, (who is the captain of their Salvation) in the christian warfare, must see to obey his word of command and Stand. 'Tis every ones duty to observe the directions of Christ, and to obey his command, in the christian warfare, and Stand. To clear up this truth, I shall lay down some conclusions, and then proceed to some Inquiries for the farther explanation and confirmation of it, And then conclude with a word of Application.

Concl: 1. That there is a war, which every true christian ought to be engaged in. What this war is, and with whom, and how it appears, we shall briefly show.

Q. 1. What is that war &c?

1 neg. A. 1. It is not a secular or worldly war, as when a prince takes up arms, in a lawful and just cause, against his enemies, for though as Gen. 14. 2. some may, yet every christian is not called to be concerned Judg. 11. 5. therein, yea there is a time of war near. Rev. 3. 8.

2. Nor is it a carnal or fleshly war, for the defence of and to gratify this or that lust, whether of pride, Ambition &c. From Jam. 4. 1. &c.

whence come wars and fightings among you, from your lusts strifes and contentions, which issues in blood.

This carnal war it breaks out against God by resisting of his Truth, called a fight against God, against the spirit of God. Thus Acts 5. 39. 51. those carnal Jews withstood the Holy Ghost, and against the Son of God. the King on Sion hill, against the Lord, &c. and against the faithful preachers and confessors of the Gospel. Thus wicked men make war against Christ in his messengers and members. Thus they Boast with the two witnesses and the saints. Thus the Apostate Jews against the prophet Jeremy (chap: 1. 19). Rev. 11. 7 13. 7.

But 'tis an holy and spiritual war, holy, because the holy God hath appointed his Servants to it, and because it is against the enemies of Sanctity and true holiness. Again, It is a spiritual war and warfare which they are to engage in, because 'tis against the enemies of God and their Souls. 2 pos:

With whom or rather against whom? Q. 2.

Against their spiritual enemies, sin, Satan, and the wicked world, who have the devil, the God of this world, for their father, so in this respect. v. 12. A. John 8. 44.

These are potent, inveterate, and unreconcilable enemies: they are and ever were, and will be so; there's no peace to be made with them. Eph: 5. 17. 1 Peter: 5: 8. 9.

Hence, it appears, that every christian ought &c. partly because the Lord Jesus Christ, whose disciples they are, counts them as his and their enemies. 23. A. 1.

Partly because he hath commanded them to engage against them and provided Armor of defence for them. 2.

And finally, because 'tis utterly impossible to be christians without it; they must fight their way through the wilderness of this world, or lose Heaven. 3.

That this war must be managed and prosecuted by them throughout the whole course of their Lives: 'twill last as long as their lives. Concl. 2.

1. Which appears, partly, because they are potent and perpetual enemies.

2. There is no time in this war wherein a christian is free from danger, he is always liable to their assaults.

3. There is no safety for them, but by fighting it out to the Last.

Death is the last enemy that shall be destroyed. 1 Cor. 15. 26. L. that enemy to be destroyed last.

Concl. 3. That the Lord Jesus Christ hath undertaken to be their Captain, and to Lead them on and give them conduct in this war.

And the truth is, they could do nothing without him. John 15. 5. he is the Captain of their Salvation. Heb. 2. 10. 'tis he that must go before them and head them in the fight. Now it is requisite and necessary that it should be so, partly because that God, the father, who gave them to him, hath appointed him to be their head (who is head over all things, &c.) to be their leader and commander, partly because they are the same enemies, which he in his own person, did engage in a war against, and obtained a conquest of and over.

R. 3. And better, because they are members of his mystical body, and Luke 1. 74. he is their head of Influence, whom he hath bought and redeemed with his blood, by whom they expect deliverance from all their enemies here. They ought to look at themselves to be under his special protection and direction and command in the management of this war.

1. Christ hath a chief hand in this war, and so they must have their direction and command from him, for the cause is the Lord's, 'tis God's righteous cause which they are to engage in.

2. And hence, the battle they are to fight, is the Lord's, his Glory is concerned in it.

3. And they are to go forth in his strength and Name, that their enemies may be trodden down.

Concl. L. That the great and comprehensive word of command, which he hath given to every one, in the christian warfare, is, to Stand, which brings me to the Inquiry, hinted at before, for the fourth and clearing up of the point of verse opposed and asserted.

Two things remain then to be looked into, the explication of the bearing and confirmation of the truth. And here we shall inquire (1) what is meant by and imposed in the word of Command, Stand. (2) how it appears that those that would quit themselves as good soldiers in the spiritual warfare, must receive the direction of their Captain General, and obey his command, and Stand.

Q. 1. What is meant by and imported in this word of command as it is set before us in the Text and truth proposed, Stand.

A. 1. To Stand. Standing is expressly understood, as it refers to men of such a model or posture of their bodies whereby they become erect, or it notes their standing upright, and it is opposed to leaning or stooping and crouching, sitting, lying, &c. A Gesture of

the body, which the people of God did make use of in the place and time of divine worship. Stand before me, particularly in prayer. Mat. 6, 5. Confession of sin, Nehemiah 9. 2. praising God, Nehemiah, 8. 5. So in reading Luke 4. 16. preaching, Acts 5. 20. 25. hearing the word, John 3. 29. 'Tis also a posture of Soldiers in a Camp, It being proper and usual for such to stand, especially, while in military and warlike exercises and engagements.

Improperly, and by a metaphor, it's applied to their spirits, or it notes a spiritual standing of the people of God, when encamped in the field of this world, and called to make ready, and prepare for. or give battle to and fight their spiritual enemies; 'tis here meant of that which is spiritual.

Now for the import of the word &c. we shall consider it under a 3 fold respect. (1) in its opposition, (2) in its Negative, (3) in its Affirmation.

We shall consider this word of command, in its Opposition, This Standing being the mode and posture, which a christian Soldier should be found in during the whole time of his warfaring state and condition. And 'tis opposed especially to these things.

1. To Laziness and Slothfulness: it ill becomes a Soldier to be dull and slow and slothful in his observance of the words of command given. Soldiers should be of lively, brisk, and active spirits, so the christian soldier: Not slothful in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord: 'tis opposed to sloth and sluggishness.

2. It's also opposed to drowsiness and sleepiness, that's a dangerous thing for soldiers, especially, when the enemy is at hand to grow dull and drowsy, and to fall asleep. So for christian soldiers to grow secure and sleepy is that which ill becomes them. While men slept the enemy sowed tares. so Eph. 5. 14.

3. finally, to disorder and confusion: that will put an army to a rout, and bring ruin on them, so will discords and disorders among the people of God; such as walk disorderly and sow the seeds of discord, they are opposite to this word of command.

In its Negation, or as it is negatively to be considered; And so

1. It is not a standing in the way and mode of sinners, who give up themselves to the commission of sinful evil, that is a defection and moral evil. Sin is that abominable, which God hates, such war the devil's warfare, and christians must beware of that. And are so far from blessedness, for who of them shall be able to stand

Jer: 7. 10.

2.

1.

ro: 12. 11.

mat: 13. 25
25. 5.see 2 Thes:
3. 6. 7. 11.1 Cor. 14.
33.

2.

Psa: 1. 1.
as 1 Sam. 6.
20.
Psa. 5. 5.

before the holy Lord God. Such shall not stand in his sight, as God said to Israel: in respect of the way. so he saith to every christian in respect of this warfare, behold, I send mine Angel before thee, beware of him, provoke him not, there will be no standing for such, in a day of wrath and judgment.

exod: 23. 21.
Psa: 1. 5.

2. Nor is it a standing, *i. e.* a continuing in a way of Apostacy and backsliding either in heart or way, and of breaking the covenant and commandments of God, to be in and out with God, in respect of his covenant, and to be guilty of heart. Apostacy from God, is that which the King doth grievously complain of in them that are his people. Such are so called upon to return, and should so say as they, behold we come unto thee, for thou art the Lord our God. Such transgressing doings will bring them low, so that they shall not be able to stand because of them.

Psa: 78. 36,
37.

Jer: 3. 12.
14. 22.

Ezra: 9. 15.

3. Nor is it such a standing and persistency in their old course and way of sinning, entiteling God thereunto, *i. e.* attend upon the outward ordinances of God, and duties of worship, and do and say as they did of old, we are delivered (*i. e.* pardoned and then return again to sin: this is a sinful and shameful standing. Though men may call and count them happy, and those that tempt God may be delivered, yet is it not that they might be destroyed forever? Such a bold and impudent standing among the people of God, is not agreeable with this word of command in the Text and truth before us. Such should comply with that. Isa. 55. 7.

Jer: 7. 10.

as Mal: 3.
15.
Psa. 92. 7.

4. Nor is it a mere passive standing, like a stock or stone, without any life or sense, not regarding the Alarums given of their danger, upon the discoveries made and reports thereof given, more Immediately by those that are under officers, who are commanded as Ezek. chap. 3. 17. and as the evangelical prophet Isa. 58. 1. So as not to look about them and to prepare for and withstand the Assaults of their enemies. Such are liable to be taken captive who are of the visible church and among the professors of christianity, but so are careless and secure, and unconcerned about their watch and war.

5. Nor is it a stout or sturdy standing in opposition to the word of God, the word of command given them from this Captain General by his servants, the prophets, like theirs of old who would not give ear and that said there is no hope, for we have loved stranger and after them, we will God. And as for the word of which thou hast spoken to us in the Name of the Lord (though he

2 Cro: 24.
19.
Jer: 2. 15.
44. 16.

was commanded to speak it, Jer. 1. 17) yet they say we will not hearken to thee. And as those that would not be gathered under the wings of Christ nor come unto him, that they might have life.

Matt: 23.
37.
John 5. 40.

6. Nor is it a standing Idle in the market place, like those that were interrogated by Christ, himself, why stand you here Idle, all the day? Those that waste and spend their time in Idleness, doing nothing at all, not improving the Gospel's markets, their working days, and time to buy and trade in for time and eternity. Christians must not stand idle: there is work for every one to do, and in evil times they ought to work and watch and ward, to work with a weapon in their hands, as they, Neh. 4. 17. 'Tis not such a standing and obeying the command as barely to receive the directions and words of command given them from Christ, in his word and by his ministers, or to lay them up in their minds and memories, or to keep them so in their remembrances as to be able to make a report of them and tell them unto others, and that is all this is to do, as those that hear the word of God and seemed to heed but do it not. Such wicked servants that know their master's will and do it not, shall be beaten with many stripes: or like that servant in the parable who received one talent of his Lord, but went and laid it up in a napkin, mark what followed thereupon, thou wicked and slothful servant, etc., but so to receive them as to put in execution, and to fulfil the word of his command, which brings me to the 3d and final thing proposed.

Mat. 20. 6.

Mark 13. 34

1.

as Mat. 7.
26. 27.
Luke 12. 47.

Mat. 25. 25.
&c.

3. By way of Affirmation to show what is imported in it. And here it may be considered either more strictly, or in a larger and more extensive consideration of it, and that with respect to the management and carrying on of the spiritual war.

3.

1. We shall consider this word of command more strictly, with reference to the posture those christian soldiers are commanded to appear and show themselves in. And there are these two or three things imported in it.

1. Uprightness and Sincerity. This every christian Soldier should carefully be concerned in, that he may Stand upright, Stand as a christian soldier with an upright heart. A soldiers standing in the field is an upright and perpendicular gesture. When he stands complete, as a soldier, in his Arms, he stands upright, so must the christian soldier, in the spiritual warfare. Thus when the Captain of their salvation shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall slay the wicked,

Isa: 11. 4. 5.

Jer. 13. 11. righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. And this is prophesied of and promised, that as a girdle cleaves to the loins of a man so God would make the whole house of Israel, and of Judah, to cleave unto him, that they might be for a Name &c. and so this is subjoined to the command, Stand, having your Loins girt about (*i. e.* with the Girdle or belt of truth). The Lord is a God that hath pleasure in uprightness; he desireth truth in the inner part, this, God expects from every christian soldier; as he did of his Passover. Surely these are my people, children that will not lie, so he was their Savior.

1 Cor: 14 ult. 2. Order, which every christian soldier ought to have a due regard unto. Hence that Apostolical direction, let all things be done decently and in order. As in military exercises order must be observed, every Soldier must keep his place, and not move out of his proper station. 'Tis not for a private Soldier to leave his station and advance into the place of his commander, such should eye their file leaders, and bringers up, yea they must keep rank and file, or, when the enemy gives them battle quickly fall into confusion and come to a rout, so the christian Soldier must have and keep to his particular calling. Every one should, and Keep his place, and work he is called to; thus magistrates and ministers and private christians. The Israelites were commanded in their wilderness marches when they came to pitch their camp, to pitch every man by his own Standard. Straglers from their station God doth not like, in a christian camp, his christians, so that advice and charge was given as the Lord hath called every man, so let him walk. and therein abide with God. Every one should learn to do his own business, the magistrates, is not the subjects, that which may be justice in a Ruler, who is God's vicegerent, may be murder in another man. So the masters work is not the peoples. Paul and Timothy kept to within their line, so should every christian Soldier do. Your not doing anothers work, will be no crime in the day of reckoning. Busy bodies are out of their place and calling. Such shall have blame and shame. Well, that this may be avoided, let every christian stand orderly.

3. Steadiness or steadfastness, so to stand as to abide and continue their standing, and not quit their station, till they receive a word of command to remove. This is every soldiers duty, he must not move off the ground, where he is commanded by his Captain, to stand, nor lay down his Arms, and depart, or leave the

field, and his particular station till he has leave so to do. Thus the christian soldier, in the spiritual warfare, must continue his place and station, and not expose himself to an unnecessary Anger from his Leader and commander, or danger in respect of the enemy. Christians should not pull down a cross upon themselves which God never designed to lay upon them, but if forced and compelled thereunto, there is no worriment for any to make, though it be duty for every one to take the cross, which God hath made for them. Mat: 16. 24. Stedfastness is highly to be commended in a christian soldier. When a soldier takes and keeps to the word of command given him, he is to be commended. So here, this will cheer the heart of Christ himself, their Captain General, and fill their hearts with joy Col: 2. 5. that are in official command under him, joying and rejoicing in the stedfastness of your fathers order: 'twill put life into your Leaders. And now we live, if you stand fast: 'tis a stable standing. 1 Thes: 3. 8.

2. In a larger and more extensive consideration of it, as it respects the management and carrying on of the war.

It imports, that they must own and acknowledge, Christ to be their Captain and commander and those that are under him, to give them words of command in his Name, that they profess their ready subjection to his power and authority, as in magistrates and civil Rulers. 1 Pet. 2. 13. 14. 15. ministers do and those of ecclesiastical order, Heb. 13. 17. and domestic, and so fathers, Gen. 18. 19. T. as Joshua said chapt: 10. 11. as Isa: 33. 22. Mat: 8. 9. Josh: 1. 16.

Soldiers must be at their Captains command, as the centurions servants and soldiers were.

2. That they are to cleave close to the cause and concernments of the Glory of God and of Christ, and so to his word, worship, ordinances, Institutions, Gospel covenant and Kingdom. The word which hath a wounding and healing virtue, it wounds their enemies, but heals their souls, and prolongs their lives. Deuteronomy 17. 19. 20. the Kings, with 32. 46. 47. the prophets. their sins. Psa. 103. 17. 18. Mercy is promised to all those that Keep his covenant and remember his commandments to do them; to stand up for God and his Gospel, for the defence of which Paul was set. Phi: 1. 7. 17.

3. A standing in the christian warfare completely Armed, hence the Apostle having called upon them to take to themselves and put on the whole armor of God, doth, with this word of command, subjoine the several suits to be worn in the field and fight, as the girdle of Truth, breastplate of Righteousness, *i. e.* inherent (not imputed), to

main the power of holiness in their conversation, the Spiritual Shoe, *i. e.* an heart ready and will resolute to endure hardship. The Shield of faith, which looks to Christ and his righteousness. A defence to the whole man, and rest of their armor, Helmet of salvation, *i. e.* hope, to defend the head. And Sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, &c.

4. A wakeful and a watchful Standing. Such then must Keep themselves awake and upon their watch; thus Soldiers especially when set to Stand, centinels must be watchful and wary: 'tis Storied of a Soldier, who his Captain slew finding him asleep, when he was set to Stand centinel, mortuum in veni, and mortuum reliqui, *i. e.* I found him in respect of sleep, and left asleep in respect of death, *i. e.* he left him and he found him.

Mark 13 ult. This is given in command to all: watch unto prayer, as Ephesians 6. 18, and as Luke 21. 30, watch and wait for a particular word of command from your Captain: watch to espy the enemies motion and Approach. Stand watching, thus in 2 Sam. 18. 30.

5. Such a standing as is accompanied with courage and boldness: It becomes a Soldier to be Confident, and bold, in looking his [] in the face, without fear. A cowardly spirit ill becomes a Soldier, and as ill a christian Soldier, to whom God Speaks as—fear not, thou worm Jacob, I will help thee. Hear the Apostle—be strong, so Joshua is exhorted, be strong and of a good courage.

6. Such a standing as to maintain their Ground against their enemies, to stand manfully in the fight and not turn their backs. This Spiritual war admits of no retreats to advantage, there is no fighting when flying before their enemies. no running but to the Name of the Lord, which is a strong Tower, &c. That great Adversary, the devil, must be resisted, and withstood, that is the way to put him to flight.

L. It is a constant and persevering Standing. Such must stand in the war, as King Solomon's servants are said to stand before him, *i. e.* continually; thus the christian soldier must persevere in his standing, he must fight it out to the Last breath. The promise of Salvation is made to them that endure to the end. Those that are faithful unto the Death shall not fail of a crown of life. Paul was ready to be bound and die for the Name of the [Lord].

2. 2. A. How the Truth of the point appears. This Last one carries its self-evidence with it. Besides what has been said (much of it)

under the foregoing Inquiry might be improved for the confirmation of it. But I shall add two other words of Argument, partly because they are destitute of that wisdom and strength and understanding of their way which is requisite unto the successful management of the war. As for wisdom they must have it from God, see James 1. 5. And for strength they may and say as 2 Chro: 20. 12. and finally their way to manage this war is not in them, and partly also because the Lord Jesus Christ their Captain General, is their great Counsellor, Isa. 9. 6. Counsel and wisdom and understanding and strength are his; he, also, is their Lawgiver, and their King. Isa. 33. 22. Yea all power in Heaven, and in earth is given to him.

And Lastly, because they have their sole and abiding dependance upon him, all their aid and assistance, yea, the success of their Arms, and engagements with and against their spiritual enemies comes from and has its dependance on him.

What remains now shall be in a word of Application, and that by way of exhortation, and direction.

I might from this point and premises Draw forth practical and profitable Inferences, that 'tis every man's interest to lay by their weapons of enmity and hostility against God, to cease fighting under the conduct of the prince of darkness: to list themselves under this Captain general, the Lord Jesus Christ, and receive his directions and obey his commands and appear in his cause.

It's also the Reason why the Kingdom of Heaven is said to suffer violences and the violent take it by force.

And finally, that the work of a true christian is an arduous, and difficult and painfull work. But that which I Intend is a word of exhortation.

In general, to presse and persuade all and every one that has given his name to Christ to behave themselves as good Soldiers, in the management of your Spiritual warfare. And to receive all your directions from and cheerfully obey his words of command from hence to live and stand. Stand uprightly, Stand orderly, Stand Stedfastly, Stand for God, forever Stand for and in his cause, truth, word, worship, ordinances, gospel, Kingdom, saints and people. Stand up for Religion, and for Reformations, Stand for love and charity, for purity and for peace. Stand and fight, fight and Stand; take courage, and Stand it ever, yield not, faint not in the field.

Dir. 1. To this end make God your strength. Be strong in the Lord. Isa. 45. 22. & 24. and in the power of his might. All things are possible Christ strengthening of you, your righteousness and strength is there.

Dir. 2. Take the whole Armor of God, put it on, wear it and use it. You'll need every piece of it. You cannot Stand without it, the put on Christ
Rev. 13. 14. girdle of truth, breastplate of righteousness, &c. that you may the new
man i. e. withstand, and having done all may stand. Stand so, &c. See that you stand true and faithful to Jesus Christ and to his word.
of the spirit. Rev. 2. 10 & 17. 14.
vir: 4.

Rev: 3. 10. Keep the word of his patience. Stand by the Gospel ministry, for by it the powers of darkness are vanquished, and Kingdom of Satan destroyed. This opens a magazine of Arms and furniture for your Souls. God's word is the Tower of David, wherein there hang a thousand bucklers, all shields of the mighty.

Cant: 4. 4. When the seventy were sent forth they quickly return with this, Luke 10. 17.
Rev: 14. 6. the devils are subject. One Angel preaches the everlasting Gos-

pel, and another quickly follows and cries victoria, Babylon is fallen. By it also your Salvation will be Secured and advanced. Ro. 1. 16, and 1 Cor. 1. 18. 21. So Paul having Charged the Elders

&c. Acts. 20. 8. commended them and by them the whole flock to the word of God's grace which was able &c. Look well to your

Standing as christians: And so (1) to your standing in the faith, and in your profession of the truth and perseverance in soundness of judgment, thus 'tis used (2) in a state of grace and assurance

of your Salvation, of the Love and favor of God. (3) in a christian course of life, and conscionable care to pleasing God in your whole Conversation.

Dir: L. Unite all the Powers of your souls, muster all your force, and get all the Strength you can, that you may Stand strongly with courage and resolution, Josh: 1. 7. and as he said 2 Chron. 32. 7. remember that in Isa. 35. 4. Stand so as to withstand in the evil day, that having done all you may stand, having an eye that you may stand conquerors, as the word imports, Dan. 11. 25, and stand acquitted at the day of judgment, as Psa. 1. 5, and 130. 3. And stand before the face of God forever in the Heavenly Glory.

Now that you may be encouraged to stand to your Arms and fight manfully consider the justice of your Cause, the clearness of your Calling. The fulness of your Aid. The certainty of your Conquest. And the greatness of your Reward, if you abide faithful unto the Death, fight then to the last Breath. And remember

that you have a most skilful courageous all conquering Captain to lead and go before you. He is a Captain that will never leave you nor forsake you. He is one that hath already overcome in his own person. He needs not your help, but, to show his power and grace in you, by making you conquerors, that you may be as He is a most vigilant and careful Captain, Isaiah 27. 3, with 48. He will encourage and hearten you in the fight. Isaiah 41. 10, 13. 16.

He will be most kind and compassionate Captain, Isaiah 40. 11. He will secure you from being utterly routed, &c. He doth assure you of success and victory at last. In a word, He will lead you on with great power and majesty as King on Sion's Hill. Psalm, 2. 16.

He is a Captain that will stand and feed you in the strength of the Lord, and his soldiers shall abide and remain in safety. He it is that builds the Temple of the Lord and that bares the Glory, that sits and rules upon his throne, and is a Priest upon his Throne. There is nothing so great and high but shall give place to his Power. The Kingdom of Satan, strong holds of Sin, high and lofty Imaginations of pride and unbelief, strength and malice of the wicked world, all must give way and sink before him. He is that Breaker that goes before his servants in whose Name they shall break up and pass through the gate and go out by it. Their King shall pass before them and their Lord in the head of them, so that they shall break through all oppositions, for their Captain General will go before them, and clear the way to Heaven.

What remains but that you, ye Gentlemen Soldiers, my fellow Soldiers in the Spiritual warfare, who have called me to this work and desired to inquire of God this day, Be true to the Captain of your Salvation, your Lord and ours. Take courage and go on in your military discipline, that you may be as those children that resemble their Captain and their King, like those that could handle the sword and were expert in war.

This Captain of Salvation, who is the prince of peace is a man of war, the Art military is of God, Psalm 144. 1. This Art is taught by him, who is the Captain of the Lord's hosts. 'Tis observable that some of the most renowned worthies in the spiritual warfare have been expert commanders in the art military. Abraham had his trained soldiers. Moses, the Captain of the wilderness led the Israelites and kept them in a military Posture. And David who was a man after God's own heart was a brisk and brave com-

Heb: 13. 5.
Col: 2. 15.

Rto: 8. 37.
Psa: 121. 4.

so Psa: 23. 1.
Mic. 7. 8.
1 Cor. 15. 54.

Mic. 5. 4.
and in the
majesty of
the Name of
the Lord his
God.
Zach. 6. 13.

Mic: 2 13.

Owen.

Judges 8.
18.

Cant: 3. 8.

Exod: 15. 3.
Psa. 10. 31
to 35.

mander. Labor for the courage, skill, and conduct which may make able and expert Soldiers and commanders, read Psalm 147. 7. 8.

Hag: 2. 4.
1 Cor: 16. 13.

Finally: Be strong O Zerubbabel, be strong O Joshua, be strong O all ye christian Soldiers, watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit yourselves like men, be strong, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Let me add this word and I have done. You that are the Governors of Judah, and those of the tribe of Levi, my brethren and fathers, who are set for the defence of the Gospel, you all that have listed under the Lord Jesus your Leader in the christian warfare, of what calling and employment soever, lift up your heads and go on manfully, and prosecute this holy war against the enemies of God and your souls, fight it out to the last, that when you come to die, you may with that great warrior be able to say, we have fought a good fight, we have finished our course, we have kept the faith, henceforth is laid up a crown of Righteousness which God shall give, &c. Amen.

2 Timo: 4. 7.
8.